के लिए समर्थन जुटाने अथवा अभियान छेड़ने की दृष्टि से अपने अधिकारियों को विशेष रूप से विदेश नहीं भेज रहा है।

Refusal by China to have further talks

2524. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has stalled the next round of the Joint Working Group meeting on the border issue by refusing to fix a date for the talks;

(b) if so, the reasons why China has refused to have further talks on this issue;

(c) the details of talks held between both the countries during the past one year and outcome thereof; and

(d) other steps Government propose to take to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question, set up by a decision of the Prime Ministers of the two countries in 1988, has held ten meetings so far. The last meeting was held in August, 1997 in New Delhi. The two sides are currently in touch to finalise the time frame for holding the 11th meeting of the Joint Working Goup.

(c) and (d) The two countries are in regular contact through diplomatic and non-official channel and, at various levels. Exchanges of visits of Parliamentarians, people-to-people exchanges, visits of political party delegations, and functional contacts in other fields, are taking place. I met the Chinese Foreign Minister during the Asian Regional Forum-Post Ministerial Conference in Manila on July 27, 1998. Vice-Chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress called on Hon'ble Speaker during the IPU Conference in Moscow on September 11, 1998. Delegations of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) visited India in September and October, 1998. A delegation of Parliamentarians led by Shri S.R. Bommai visited China in October, 1998 to participate in the 6th General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development. The Sixth meeting of the India-China Expert Group, set up in 1993 to assist the Joint Working Group, was held in Beijing on June 8-9, 1998. The first Foreign Ministry level Consultations between India and China in the framework of the Protocol on Co-operation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China were held in Beijing on February 25-26, 1999. During the consultations, which covered bilateral, regional and international issues, the approach of both sides was positive and forward-looking. The two sides agreed that the talks enhanced mutual understanding and agreed on continuation of the dialogue at various levels.

Efforts to improve bilateral relations in diverse fields are continuing. We seek a friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel.

Use of Narcotics to Fund J and K militants

2525. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently released annual "World Geopolitics of Drugs" (1997-98) has identified the hand of Pakistani Government in using narcotics to fund militant organization in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that Pakistan is aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism directed against India out of finances from different sources, including funds generated through trafficking in drugs and narcotics. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter terrorists, and are vigilant about material, financial or any other support extended from outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against India.